

PATENT  
540606-2001IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jim Reich  
Serial No. : 09/837,739  
Filed : April 6, 2001  
For : **ANTIMICROBIAL FABRICS**  
Group Art Unit: 1771  
Examiner : Jennifer Boyd

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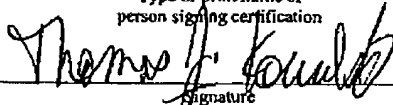
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Thomas J. Kowalski, Reg. No. 32,147

Type or print name of  
person signing certification

January 20, 2004

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is respectfully invited to the following documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, enclosed in duplicate. As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under Rule 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3), prior to the mailing of a first Office Action, it is believed that no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account 50-0320.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that the documents cited herein are considered most pertinent, or that a search has been undertaken, or that any of the cited documents are indeed prior art.

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The Contain clothing described in the accompanying document is manufactured and sold by Vest-Shield, Inc., a company with which Anthony Newman appears to be associated. Newman is the named inventor of U.S. Patent 6,000,057 ("the '057 patent"), which involves and claims "hunting apparel comprising an article of clothing constructed with an inner layer of an antimicrobial fabric and outer layer of an odor absorbing material."

It is respectfully submitted that the fabric used in Contain clothing is not that described in the '057 patent; and that the '057 patent does not teach or suggest the instant invention. The '057 patent discloses that the antimicrobial fabric "is available from a number of sources" and that a "preferred family of antimicrobial fabrics are the fabrics available from the Microban Products Company under the Microban® mark, such as Microsafe® fabric" (see column I, lines 55-61).

Simply, the antimicrobial layer of the fabric of the '057 patent is made entirely of antimicrobial fabric; the '057 patent does not teach, suggest or contemplate blending the antimicrobial fabric with other materials, including polyester to create a blended antimicrobial layer. Accordingly, the '057 patent fails to teach or suggest the instant invention.

In contrast, the Contain clothing seems to involve only a percentage of an acrylic purportedly containing a "built-in deodorant." Of course, "acrylic" is not acetate.

Moreover, as the prosecution history of the present application is now available online, the undersigned only now has a copy of the October 29, 2002 facsimile of Tony Newman to the Examiner. While Mr. Newman's facsimile to the Examiner appears to NOT to comply with the Rules, see, e.g., 37 C.F.R. §1.290, the documents cited by Mr. Newman can readily be distinguished from the instant invention.

The documents cited by Mr. Newman do not teach or suggest the fabric and garment of the instant claims. There is no teaching or suggestion of the acetate fiber being at least 25% by weight of the fabric; and no incentive or motivation to modify that which Newman cites to arrive at the claim recitation. There is no teaching or suggestion that the fibers are entwined as in the present claims, or that the polyester is semi-dull. And, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Newman documents that the fabric is an odor-reducing garment, e.g., an odor-reducing hunting garment, as in the present claims.

Thus, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

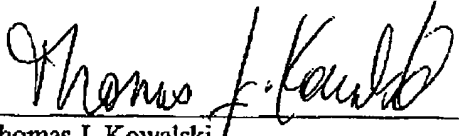
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Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and make of record the documents cited herein and that a copy of Form PTO-1449, appropriately initialed by the Examiner, be returned to Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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